

Lancaster, N. H.

July, 18. 1872,

Dear friend Garrison;

³⁹ Your kind & charming letter overtook me, while on my way to these Mountain-regions, with a very sick friend of our town, who seems to have no one who could come with him, unless I did so. He is a great sufferer with Asthma, other difficulties seriously complicating it. The air here has relieved him already. This aftⁿ, if not prevented by rain, we shall drive over to Jefferson, & see if he can get established there.

What you write of H. Greeley is "fit to print" - probably more so, for not being written with that view. I wish I had your leave to send it to the Worcester "Spy", or some other paper.* I lost confidence in ^{Greeley} him, in the middle of the war, & was often greatly vexed with him for his timid, faltering, & cowardly behaviour.

* If you object to my doing so, please write me a line to Worcester, where I shall be again in a few days probably.

I never imagined however that he would become the turn-coat & traitor that he has. Some years ago he uttered a most poignant & pious lamentation over the downfall of Daniel Webster and of Salmon P. Chase, growning out of their ambitious aspirations "to be President." There is the difference, said he modestly, between Daniel Webster and me; — "he wanted to be President, and I do not." Now, if in the lowest deep of unpunished wallowing for office there is a lower deep than even Webster & Chase found, Horace Greeley has discovered it, & gone in all over. It is a case of "truth stranger than fiction". It should have been not incredible only but impossible. But we see it; and it ought to be his political death and the death of all his influence forever on any & every subject. It clearly is, as

yes day, a Southern nomination;
and, if election follow nomination,
will be the return of the South to
power & control. But what must
be said of and to Frank W. Bird,
and his "Charley Daers"? laugh! The
miserable canting man, with his talk
of the repenting sinners Reagan H^c!
I entirely agree with you that Charles
Sumner is very largely responsible for this
re-habilitation of the old, condemned
Democratic party, now trying to put to sea
again as an honest & sound craft, but
doomed, I trust & believe, to go to pieces
before the rejoicing eyes of all decent people.

I rejoice in one case of genuine, ^{though}
so tardy, repentance. That, viz. of Mrs.
Sarah Shaw Russell; & as she has brought forth
some small "works meet for repentance",
we ought to be glad, & not scan the past
perhaps very closely. She was always too good
a woman, to be hoaxed and led away, as

She allowed herself to be. Her note to you is a handsome one, in the spirit of a true lady as she is, who does not hesitate to admit herself to have been mistaken & wrong, and to make reparation for it. I fancy the feelings of W. P. & Wm. B. Green when they learn of it.

I think your own personal acknowledgment ^{of its reception} to her is entirely sufficient, and is, in my judgment, all that she desires herself. It was sent to you, not to any Committee. I think she would regard a public announcement of it as ostentatious, now; and I should be inclined to look upon it so myself. At all events, the Testimonial Committee, not having rec'd. it, cannot acknowledge it as received by them. It seems to me that it stands just right here, as a personal matter between herself and you.

— I shall of course endeavour to see William & his family at Jefferson.

Please give my kind regards to Mrs. Garrison & to Frank, and to George if with you.

I am Affly Yrs

Lau May

* If you direct to my living so, please write me a line to Frederick, where I shall be again in a few days probably